HOMES OF RIVER PIRATES. Caves in the Mountain Sides Are Watche

with Awe by Longsh Along the west shore of the Hudson river, between West Point and Esopus, according to the New York World, there are several sidehill openings that are supposed to lead into big recesses not yet explored. Daring men have made the attempt to discover the interior, but have been frightened into a retreat by all sorts of imaginings.

At Marlborough, Highland and in the famous Storm King mountain, at Cornsvall, these rocky openings are watched by longshoremen, who have reason to believe that valuable property is contained therein.

A Cornwall fisherman says he believes that one of these caves, near the foot of Storm King, is the rendezvous of a gang of New York thieves, who receive and dispose of their ill-gotten stock on a strict mercantile basis. He remembers that about the 1st of April he and his father saw a small boat, in which were four men, put ashore at this point. It was an inky black night, and it was not safe for small craft in the

wind-tossed water of Cornwall bay. The fisherman watched the landing and saw the company, who were distinguished by the lanterns they carried. work their way up the mountain side. About twenty minutes after the landing the lights were lost sight of at a point about one hundred feet from the water's edge.

The supposition is that these men entered one of those mercantile caves to make ready for the year's business. No one has ventured near the place, although several hunters say that there is an opening at the spot designated by the Cornwall man. It is believed that this cave is the main resort of river pirates and robbers, who plunder in the Hudson river valley, and if so there is considerable danger attending a visitation to the locality.

This site is particularly lonely and deserted. It can be located by passengers on the day boats as they are passing. It is about three hundred feet west of the place where an attempt has been made to quarry stone for crushing, and to reach it one must run the risk of being bitten by the most poisonous snakes.

Two Dishes. Winks (who keeps house)-We had an old-fashioned potpie for dinner to-

Minks (who boards)-We had an oldfashioned chicken .- N. Y. Weekly.

Why He Did It. Wife (snappishly)-Why do you smoke those horrid cigars?

Husband-Because I can't afford to buy Paris bonnets and Havana cigars, too.-N. Y. Weekly.

Taking a Rest. "Who was the gentleman who sat by you and stared into your face all even-

"He's a celebrated mind-reader." "On his vacation?"-Life.

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WHITE HOUSE EXTENSION.

Ably Advocated and Planned by the Late Mrs. Harrison

How the Executive Mansion Would Look To-Day If Her Ideas Had Been Carried Out by Con-

(Special Washington Letter 1 If the white house is to continue to be the home and also the public office of the president it must be remodeled, and the sooner the better. The living apartments of the presidential family are cramped and inadequate for the purpose, and the offices used by the president are wholly disproportionate to the need of the chief magistrate and to the convenience of the general publie. During the past fifty years many millions of dollars have been expended

for the erection of buildings for the ex-

ecutive departments, but nothing has



been done and not a dollar has been appropriated for the enlargement of the offices of the president whose duty it is to examine papers and give supervision to the work of all these departments. Moreover, with the growth of shape the destinies of nations and of the country, the visitors who come here on official business to see the president have multiplied in numbers, and no increased accommodations have been made for them at the white house. The one public reception hall is often thronged with distinguished men who stand crowding each other uncomfortably while they await their turn to get beyond the door of the little room in which the president is vainly striving to make headway with affairs. There is not sufficient room for his clerks and assistants. The private secretary occupies a little room which is smaller and less worthy of the position than the first-class clerks occupy in the pal- intended that President Harrison atial executive departments. It is not should march beside him, leave the colcreditable to the country that this con- umn at the white house, and there as-

official and domestic use of the presidents in the future, which subsequently took the form of a published interview, Mrs. Harrison spoke very fully on the subject, pointing out the ab-sence of sufficient family apartments, the lack of privacy for the ladies of the president's family, want of household conveniences and inadequate accommodations for the comfort of guests at state hospitalities which the president is required to extend. She also gave her ideas of how the extensions should be made, and the uses to which they should be applied. This interview received wide publication and attracted considerable attention of a fleeting na-

Later in the same year, in order to esires, Mrs. Harrison secured the services of a skilled architect, Fred D. Owen, and he sketched with charcoal the design outlined by her. She called Col. Ernst, of the army, to the white house and explained her plan to him, and the colonel united with the architect in sketching complete plans. Then, from penciled interpretations of her expressions, giving geometric form with angles and curves and lights and shades, developing columns, colonnades, entablatures, facades and windows, as they fell in word pictures from the lips of Mrs. Harrison, the architect fash-ioned, ready for the builder, a home for the presidents of the future, which, while classic in style and republican in simplicity, would be without a rival in the world as an executive residence. To the glory of the womanhood of the republic, it may also be said that this plan is the creation of a woman who adorned the high place of domestic and social honor in the executive mansion until she was called to that place where many mansions be, and where the weary are at rest.

The wife of President Harrison builded and planned for a great American future. If she had lived, her dreams might have been realized. It is strange what events change and people. In 1892, during the presidential campaign which resulted in the defeat of Gen. Harrison for reelection to the presidency, the Grand Army of the Republic held its annual encampment in Washington city. If Gen. Harrison could have mingled with those veterans, they might have gone hence, and, with their balance of power, caused his reelection. At that time he was constantly at the bedside of hisdying wife, and could not even give the old soldiers a public reception. He saw none of them. Ex-President Hayes was here, and marched up Pennsylvania avenue on foot with the old soldiers. It was



MRS. HARRISON'S PLAN FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE WHITE HOUSE. Southern Facade of Present Structure, Official and Art Wings, Courtyard and Winter

here in greater numbers every year.

Early in the year 1890, after experiencing the inconveniences here outlined, President Harrison and Mrs. Harthe subject and talked to everybody having power and influence, urging her views with great persistence. On one occasion she secured an attentive listener and one who cheerfully coinfluence was circumscribed by his physical condition. One evening Secretary Blaine called to see the president on official business, and after that had been attended to, Mrs. Harrison, in a casual way, mentioned the difficulties which surrounded her. Mr. Blaine at once took a serious view of the situation and spoke quite earnestly of the indifference which had so long been shown towards the executive in matters of official and personal accommodations. He could see no way out of the dilemma except the enlargement or extension of the present building in accordance with some plan in harmony with its architectural style. This agreed with Mrs. Harrison's views upon the subject, and the estimable lady explained her ideas with wonderful completeness and detail as to the style and arrangement of the proposed extension. The secretary of state also gave his views, which comprehended a wing or auxilliary building for the executive offices on the west, and a similar building for the hall of art on the east; the central historic structure to be rebuilt in the interior of durable materials, and to re-

main as the executive residence. Greatly encouraged with this interview, Mrs. Harrison then conversed with the superintendent of public buildings, explaining in detail the plan which she entertained for the enlargement of the mansion. He heartily concurred in her views and endeavored to aid her in creating public sentiment in favor of the proposed plans for the extension and improvement of the building. Mrs. Harrison was so much in earnest that she departed from her customary rule of reticence, and, in conversation with

dition has been permitted to continue | cend the reviewing stand, where all The executive mansion must be en- the old soldiers could see him and cheer larged, or else a new residence must be him as they marched by. But he was at prepared for the president in some her bedside, and never left her until she other locality, so that the entire white had gone from him, and gone from house may be given up to the transac- earth forever. If she had been well tion of public business and the proper then, and had lived, she might have reception of American citizens who come seen her ideal white house builded according to the plans which she had so carefully outlined.

In the early days of the republic the first occupant of the white house was rison endeavored to impress upon pub- President Adams. His brilliant wife lie men the necessity of public action found the apartments on the first floor in the matter, but nothing was done. not even plastered, and held her first Mrs. Harrison took great interest in reception in what is now the president's office on the second floor.

The British troops burned the white house in 1814, and for three years President and Mrs. James Monroe occupied rented buildings. When they returned cided with her plans, but whose in- to the white house it was in a very crude condition, still bearing some of the marks of the vandals and marauders called soldiers, who had desecrated it.

During the winter season of 1832-34 President Andrew Jackson abandoned all public receptions and state dinners because the mansion was too small and in every way inadequate to the demands of circumstances and conditions

for such entertainments. And yet we have the same unimproved white house for the use of our presidents and their families until this day. It is about time that something were done to change existing conditions. The plan of Mrs. Harrison is an excellent one and ought to be adopted unless something better can be devised by architectural experts. The present white house is getting to be a popular nuisance, both as a business office and as a residence for our presidents. It is dwarfed between the treasury and state department buildings. It is an architectural pigmy as compared with the capitol building. It is as the house of a butler or hostler as compared with the homes and offices of the executive heads of other nations. It is discreditable to our people, and as soon as they become familiar with that fact their representatives will be required to take suitable action. The plan of the wife of President Harrison, as compared

with the picture of the original white house, commands the consideration and respect of all who understand the situation and environments of the president and his family in the old mansion. SMITH D. FRY.

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